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THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED

THE NURSING RECORD

No. 1,519. Vol. 58. [Registered at the General Post Office as a Newspaper.] MAY 12TH, 1917 WEEKLY TWOPENCE.

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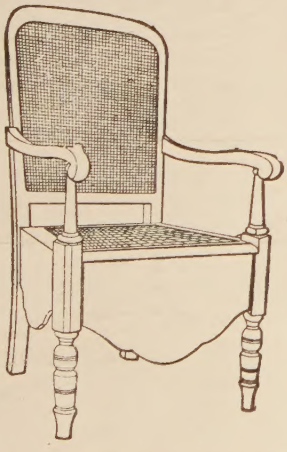

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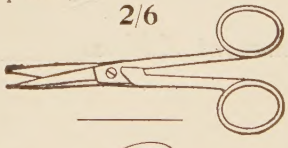

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The Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses

431, OXFORD STREET, LONDON, W.

Petition to the Prime Minister.

I, the undersigned, petition that any Bill for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, brought in by the Government, or otherwise, shall provide for the direct representation of the Organised Societies of Nurses in England and Wales, Scotland, and Ireland on the Provisional Governing Body authorised by Parliament to frame the Rules and Regulations to which the Registered Nurses will have to conform, as provided in the Bill drafted by the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses.

Signature .....

Certificate .....

Professional Position .....

Permanent Address .....

.....

N.B.—Please return this form, when signed and filled in, to the Hon. Secretary, Nurses' Petition, 431, Oxford Street, London, W. 1.

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Editorial Communications to be addressed to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole Street, London, W. 1.

N.B.—*All communications in respect to Advertisements or business matters must be addressed to The Manager,* THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, 431, Oxford Street, London, W. 1.

Phone—**1712 Gerrard.**

OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT.

THE TRAINED WOMEN NURSES' FRIENDLY SOCIETY.

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Trained Women Nurses' Friendly Society will be held at 431, Oxford Street, London, W., on May 23rd, at 4.30 p.m.

K. N. WRIGHT,
Secretary.

HOSPITAL AND POOR LAW VACANCIES, ETC.

ROYAL SURREY COUNTY HOSPITAL, GUILDFORD.

(Normal number of beds 100, and a temporary Annexe of 100 beds for Wounded Soldiers.)

The Committee invite applications for the post of MATRON, which will be vacant on June 1st, 1917.

Salary £80 per annum, rising by annual increments of £5 to £100, with Apartments, Board and Laundry.

Applicants must not be more than 40 years of age, must be fully trained nurses and competent managers.

Applications, stating age, experience, copies of three recent testimonials (including one from last post held), together with certificate of health, to be sent to the HON. SECRETARY, not later than Saturday, May 12th, 1917.

Canvassing will disqualify. 77

COUNTY COUNCIL OF DURHAM.

SEALBURN TUBERCULOSIS HOSPITAL.

The County Health Committee will shortly appoint a fully-trained Nurse and experienced Housekeeper to act as MATRON of the above-mentioned Hospital, which is situate about three miles from Ryton-on-Tyne railway station, and contains beds for sixteen patients.

The person appointed will be required to act under the instructions of the County Medical Officer and of the Visiting Medical Officer.

The salary will be £50 per annum, with an additional allowance of £8 for uniform; and the appointment will be subject to three months' notice on either side.

Applications, with copies of not more than three recent testimonials, must be received on or before the 19th May by the undersigned.

Canvassing is prohibited.

Shire Hall, Durham. T. EUSTACE HILL, County Medical Officer.
25th April, 1917. 67

HOSPITAL AND POOR LAW VACANCIES ETC.—*continued.*

GRIFFITHSTOWN AUXILIARY MILITARY HOSPITAL, NEAR NEWPORT, MON.

The Committee invite applications for the post of MATRON at the above, at a salary of £75 per annum, with Uniform, Laundry, Board and Residence.

Applications, stating place of training, age and experience, copies of three recent testimonials, must reach me not later than Wednesday, 23rd inst.

T. P. HOLMES WATKINS,
Secretary.
86

QUEEN'S PARK AUXILIARY MILITARY HOSPITAL, BLACKBURN.

NURSES.

WANTED, at once, fully certificated NURSES; one CHARGE SISTER and one STAFF NURSE.

Salary—Charge Sister, £50 per annum, Staff nurse, £40 per annum, with usual Increments, Resident Allowances, and Allowance for Uniform.

Apply, stating age, and giving full particulars of training, &c., to

CHAS. E. BYGRAVE.
Cardwell Place, Blackburn.
1st May, 1917. 81

BROMLEY AND BECKENHAM JOINT HOSPITAL BOARD.

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Applications to be made on forms to be obtained from the Clerk of the Board, Park House, Bromley, Kent, and returned, duly filled in, at once.

ARTHUR B. COOMBER,
Clerk of the Board.
91

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HOSPITAL AND POOR LAW VACANCIES ETC.—*continued.*

EASTBOURNE UNION.

CHARGE NURSE WANTED.

The Guardians of the above-named Union invite applications for the appointment of CHARGE NURSE at the Steyning Union Infirmary, Shoreham-by-Sea.

Salary, £35 per annum, rising £1 annually to £40 per annum; with Rations, Apartments, Laundry and Uniform.

The appointment will be made subject to the approval of the Local Government Board and to the provisions of the Poor-Law Officers' Superannuation Acts, 1896-97.

Applications to be made on forms which will be supplied by me on receipt of a stamped directed foolscap envelope, accompanied by copies of not more than three testimonials of recent date, must reach me not later than 10 a.m. on TUESDAY, the 15th May, 1917.

By Order,
Guardians' Offices, Avenue House, Eastbourne. A. HURST, Clerk.
30th April, 1917. 95

BOLTON UNION.

CHARGE NURSE and PROBATIONER NURSES WANTED for the Fishpool Institution, Farnworth, near Bolton.

Forms of application and full particulars (for which a stamped addressed foolscap envelope must be enclosed) may be obtained from the SUPERINTENDENT NURSE, Fishpool Institution, Farnworth, near Bolton. 70

WOLVERHAMPTON UNION INFIRMARY.

CHARGE NURSE REQUIRED.

The Guardians of the Poor of the Wolverhampton Union invite applications for appointment as CHARGE NURSE at their Infirmary.

Candidates must have had three years' training. The Infirmary is a Training School for Nurses recognised by the Local Government Board and the Central Midwives Board, and there is a Resident Medical Officer.

Salary, £40 per annum, together with Residence, Rations and the use of Indoor Uniform.

Applications, upon forms to be obtained from my Office, must be delivered to me not later than first post on Tuesday, May 22nd, 1917.

Canvassing the Guardians is prohibited.

FRANK HARRISON,
Clerk to the Guardians.

Poor Law Offices,
Wolverhampton. 88

TO NURSES.—Please send for our List of important "Books for Nurses." It contains full particulars of valuable handbooks by Miss Dock, Miss Pope, Miss Maxwell, and others.
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157, GREAT PORTLAND STREET, LONDON, W. *Telephone: MAYFAIR 4189.*

HOSPITAL AND POOR LAW VACANCIES ETC.—*continued.*

LEWISHAM MILITARY HOSPITAL.

STAFF NURSES REQUIRED.

Applications are invited for the appointment of STAFF NURSES at the above Hospital.

Candidates must possess a three years' certificate from a recognised Training School for Nurses.

Salary £40 per annum, rising £2 10s. annually to £45 per annum; with Board, Lodging, Washing, and an allowance of £8 per annum for Uniform.

Forms of application may be obtained by forwarding a stamped addressed envelope to the MATRON, Military Hospital, 300, High Street, Lewisham, to whom all forms, duly filled up, must be returned. 62

COUNTY BOROUGH OF SMETHWICK REQUIRE two fully-trained NURSES with good Tuberculosis experience, for Sanatorium.

Salary £45, rising to £50 upon approved services at the end of six months, with Uniform, Board, Residence, and Laundry.

Apply, with testimonials, to MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, Council House, Smethwick, Staffs. 85

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Form of application, apply MEDICAL OFFICER, Town Hall, Oldham. 97

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APPOINTMENTS VACANT.

SISTER REQUIRED for a Military Hospital (204 beds). Salary £50 and a Uniform allowance. Apply to the MATRON, F.M.S. Hospital, Kimpton, Welwyn, Herts. 92

FULLY-TRAINED NURSES WANTED for District work, also for School Inspection. Comfortable home and good salary. Apply, with copies of certificate and testimonials, also photo, to LADY SUPERINTENDENT, Victoria Nursing Institution, Walsall, Staffs. 57

GLASGOW.—NURSES WANTED for first-class Private Nursing Home. Must be fully certificated, well-educated, reliable gentlewomen. Good salary. Matron's certificate and references essential. Apply, with same, stating age, experience and present salary, to Claremont House, 6, Claremont Terrace, Glasgow, W. 84

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RANYARD NURSES.—WANTED, fully trained Hospital NURSES willing to devote themselves to nursing the sick poor in London. Free District Training and Lectures given. Age, 25 to 40. For particulars as to salary, &c., apply: The Secretaries, Ranyard House, 25, Russell Square, W.C. 13

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Candidates must be over 21 and under 27 years of age, well educated, free from any physical infirmity, and should apply personally to the MATRON at the Infirmary, or write, enclosing stamped addressed envelope, to her for forms of application.

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Applications, stating age, qualifications, and experience, together with not more than three testimonials, to be sent to the undersigned on or before Wednesday. 16th May, 1917.

A. E. BRINDLEY,
Medical Officer of Health.
Ford Street,
Derby. 73

WEST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE.

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Applications must be on forms provided, and be received not later than 14th MAY, 1917.

FRANCIS ALVEY DARWIN,
Clerk of the County Council.
County Hall, Wakefield,
April, 1917. 99

LITERARY CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributions to the Editor should be addressed to her at 20, UPPER WIMPOLE ST., LONDON, W. 1. Phone—513 Mayfair.

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THE
BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING
WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED
THE NURSING RECORD
EDITED BY MRS BEDFORD FENWICK

No. 1,519. SATURDAY, MAY 12, 1917. Vol. LVIII.

EDITORIAL.

A PETITION TO THE PRIME MINISTER.

The constitution of the College of Nursing, Ltd., has now been in force for twelve months, and some thousands of nurses have been enrolled, as the majority of those Matrons who have been nominated on to its Council have used all their influence with the nurses under their direction to become members of the College, and we are informed that many sign the application agreeing to be bound by the regulations imposed, which do not appear on the application form, without even reading them through.

That is a matter for sincere regret, but it affects the interests of individuals. When, however, the question of legislation is under consideration the welfare of a great profession is at stake, and it becomes a matter of public duty for every member of that profession to do her utmost to secure legislation upon the right lines.

The point of primary importance in legislating for any profession is that it shall have an effective voice in framing the rules and regulations which its members will have to obey, and that has therefore been put in the forefront in relation to any Bill for Nurses' Registration, by the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses. The negotiations between that Committee and the Council of the College of Nursing, Ltd., entered into with the object of agreeing upon a Conjoint Bill, were broken off mainly because the Council of the College ultimately repudiated this principle.

The Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses has therefore prepared a Petition to the Prime Minister which all nurses are invited to sign who approve of the direct representation of the organized societies of nurses in England and Wales, Scotland and Ireland (that is the Societies which have worked and paid for the promotion of the registration movement and converted Members of Parliament to the principle), so that it may be ready for presentation to the Prime Minister whenever a Nurses' Registration Bill is introduced into Parliament, either by the Government or otherwise. This Petition will be found on page ii of the cover in this issue, and we invite all trained nurses to read this carefully, and, if they approve of it, to fill in and sign it, and forward it forthwith to the Hon. Secretary, Nurses' Petition, 431, Oxford Street, London, W.

The reason for the representation of the Nurses' Societies on the Provisional Governing Body of the Nursing Profession, authorized by Parliament, is obvious. Until a sufficient number of nurses are registered under the Act the only way in which they can be directly represented is through their self-governing societies. It is of the utmost importance that they should have power to express an opinion on the Provisional Council because, that is the Body which will be in office when the rules for the future government of the nursing profession are made.

The National self-governing Societies of Nurses associated together in the Central Committee for State Registration have for years studied the question of legislation. No more expert professional opinion as to nursing organization and legislation, or more representative of the workers, can be obtained until the registered nurses elect their own direct representatives.

A nominated Council, such as is proposed by the College of Nursing, Ltd., composed of irresponsible individuals mentioned by name in the Bill, and representative of no one, unless it be the training schools, will never satisfy those nurses who have learnt, through a campaign of thirty years, the primary importance of self-government. For this they are prepared to work, to fight, and, if need be, to wait.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN (*a*) COMMUNICABLE, (*b*) CONTAGIOUS, AND (*c*) INFECTIOUS DISEASES, AND GIVE AN EXAMPLE OF EACH.

We have pleasure in awarding the prize this week to Miss J. G. Gilchrist, Gillespie Crescent, Edinburgh.

PRIZE PAPER.

At first glance the terms "communicable," "contagious," and "infectious" would appear to be synonymous, but in medical and nursing work the definite knowledge of the germs concerned in infection and spread of disease have led to classification and distinction as to the methods of infectivity, and the comparative safety of the public as regards such. All diseases are spread by direct contact with patients; by indirect contact with articles used fresh from individuals affected, such as school children sucking sweets, or pencils passed from one to the other; indirect contact from fomites, such as infected bedding, clothing, hospital appliances. Contaminated water and articles of food with, maybe, dust-laden or insect-borne disease germs are the principal channels of disease communication; *i.e.*, inhalation, ingestion, inoculation.

(*a*) Communicable diseases are those which may be conveyed almost entirely by direct contact, such as kissing, or by inoculation by infective secretions on a roughened or broken skin surface. Diseases may be communicated in this way from person to person, and also from an animal to a person. As an example of the former—*i.e.*, from person to person—syphilis and gonorrhœa are the most important; as an example of the latter, tuberculosis and anthrax are the outstanding forms, though anthrax is not at all common.

The chief danger of communicable diseases lies in the lack of safeguarding of a perfectly healthy unsuspecting individual against an infected person. From the nature of the disease, which is both chronic and progressive in character to a large extent, the infected person does not submit to isolation till cured, even if undergoing treatment, thus distinguishing such from those contagious and infectious diseases which have certain obtrusive symptoms, and run an acute definite course of short duration (weeks, as compared with years), and are to a great extent under the jurisdiction of the sanitary authorities. Communicable diseases are of the first importance to the national health and for the coming generation, as conjugal infection is often the means of damaged children, as well as prematurity, and sterility as regards the national birth-rate. As regards children also the non-abatement of what may be called surgical tuberculosis, due to infected milk from tubercular animals, is a matter for measures of safeguard to be taken for the public welfare in the future.

Though inoculation plays the chief part in communicable disease, there is always risk of infection from personal linen, bedclothes, spoons, cups, dressings, and anything coming in contact or used by patient, whether in an acutely infectious stage of disease or not. In gonorrhœa there is extreme danger of infection to the eyes of the nurse in contact with patient, demanding the strictest care and cleanliness.

(*b*) Contagious diseases may be distinguished from infectious diseases by being more readily conveyed by direct or virtual contact, and not so readily by indirect means, such as food and fomites. In all contagious and infectious diseases the period of greatest danger varies greatly; maybe the early stage as in measles, the acute stage as in enteric, and the later stage as in smallpox.

Contagious diseases may be imparted chiefly by secretions and excretions, such as sputum laden with specific organisms, the person infected by inhalation. Diphtheria, a virulent throat infection, may be taken as an example.

(*c*) Infectious diseases may naturally be imparted by means of direct communication and contagion as in the foregoing examples, but they may also be caused by ingestion of infected food or clothing, and by "carriers." They are also prone to occur in epidemic form, owing to the widespread germ infection, especially in a crowded community.

A typical example is scarlet fever, the source of epidemic infection being sometimes the dairy milk supply. Boots, clothing, and personal belongings may harbour the germ for a considerable time unless properly disinfected. A distinguishing feature of the contagious, infectious diseases in contrast to the above-mentioned communicable diseases is that one must be in a susceptible state to favour the development of disease even if exposed to it; one may be naturally immune or acquire immunity by keeping one's health up to concert pitch, so to speak, by a previous attack, or by inoculation, as against smallpox. Isolation, quarantine, disinfection, can be enforced as safeguards. In communicable diseases a healthy person is infected without any pre-disposition or susceptibility. Infection is at first local, and may pass unnoticed for a considerable time. Wrong treatment is also a danger, and its impregnation of the whole system, if unchecked, renders such

a most vital matter for education and rational treatment.

HONOURABLE MENTION.

The following competitors receive honourable mention :—Miss A. M. Johnson, Miss Dora Vine, Miss Catherine Wright, Miss Jane Armstrong, Miss P. E. Robinson.

QUESTION FOR NEXT WEEK.

Give a short description of the following diseases, and give details of general nursing and management :—(*a*) chorea; (*b*) delirium tremens.

PRACTICAL POINTS.

WARM BEDS IN OPEN AIR.

"One of the chief difficulties in the application of open-air treatment in winter has," says the *British Medical Journal*, "been in connection with the maintenance of uniform warmth in the bed. The hot-water bottle has hitherto been the only means available, and although its use is almost universal, no system has yet been devised to minimise its obvious shortcomings where a steady and uniform degree of warmth is desired. In a report recently issued by the managers of the Lord Mayor Treloar's Hospital for Crippled Children at Alton the medical superintendent, Dr. H. J. Gauvain, gives an account of a new method of heating which would seem to deserve the attention of all hospital managers. Details, either of construction or of cost, are not included in the report, but the plan consists in the application of electricity as a means of uniform warmth to the mattress upon which the patient lies. It has already been tried and proved efficient, and a complete ward is to be furnished with such electrically heated mattresses. The system is stated to be "simple, safe, economical and efficient," and the degree of heat can be regulated so as to maintain an even temperature under all conditions. It is claimed that the problem of keeping patients warm in open-air institutions has now been solved, and if it can indeed be shown to be economical, as that term is usually understood, then its introduction should be welcomed wherever electric facilities can be combined with open-air beds. But it would appear from the published balance sheet that expense has not to be quite so rigidly regarded at Alton as at most institutions dependent upon public charity. It may be noted that no less than £4,000 have been expended on fuel, lighting, water, and sewerage. No mention is made as to cost of electric current, which would probably be included under the heading of lighting. Further particulars as to construction, cost of installation and maintenance of the new mattresses would be welcomed by all hospital authorities."

Dr. Gauvain, in a letter in a later issue of our contemporary, writes that a detailed report on the method adopted at Alton is in course of preparation for the Local Government Board. In the meantime he gives the following preliminary particulars :—

"The system may be adapted to existing mattresses. These simply require the insertion of the heating elements. The mattresses are differentially heated to ensure that the greatest amount of heat is generated at the foot-end of the patient, a certain amount about the body, and none at all at the head. By the method of wiring adopted the mattress may be turned from side to side or foot to head, but the heating in relation to the patient nevertheless remains distributed as before described.

"A mattress being usually stuffed with non-conducting materials when thus electrically equipped becomes a potential heat reservoir, the heat being only gradually disseminated. This is much to be preferred to local application of heat as obtained by hot-water bottles, electric heaters, and the like, and avoids their dangers and discomforts.

"The heat developed in the bed may be controlled at the bedside by either patient or attendant, throughout all the beds in the ward by the Sister in charge, or throughout all the beds in the hospital by some person in authority. This flexibility of heat application is of value and is secured with exactitude and without labour. Its advantages are especially apparent when a sudden fall of temperature creates a demand for more heat, as heat is rapidly available to the extent required at negligible cost. With the rise of the thermometer the current generating the heat may be at once reduced or cut off altogether. Indeed, it would be possible to cause the heat generated to be automatically regulated by thermometer for the institution as a whole, while still being available to a greater or lesser degree for individual patients.

"The saving of bedding and labour is obvious, and it becomes practicable for the medical attendant to prescribe the exact amount of heat he desires to supply to any patient with the same exactness as he would order a diet or drug.

"There is nothing to get out of order. I have used such a mattress myself for the purpose of thorough testing for the past two winters. My mattress is simply connected up with an ordinary wall plug used for supplying the current for a bedside lamp. I switch the current off before retiring and the bed remains comfortably warm through the night if the current had been turned on some two hours previously. The bed is always well aired and the heat generated is applied scientifically where required."

Dr. Willoughby, Medical Officer of Health for the Port of London, records the occurrence of six cases of enteric fever at Northfleet, which were traced to the eating of periwinkles. Inquiry is being made with the view of closing the source of supply of the periwinkles supposed to be contaminated.

NURSING AND THE WAR.

The King has been pleased to decorate the following Matrons and Sisters with the Royal Red Cross :—

THE ROYAL RED CROSS.

FIRST CLASS.

Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service.—Matron Mary Harris.

Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve.—Matron Alice Cashin, Matron Gertrude Fletcher, Matron Grace Stewart, and Matron Rosa Wallace.

Army Nursing Service.—Matron Charlotte Sumner.

SECOND CLASS.

Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve.—Matron Mary Dow, Matron Eva Ellis, Matron Amy Hill, Sister Emily Bishop, Sister Catherine Cox, Sister Lois Dawson, Sister Annie Horsfall, Sister Ethel Malim, and Sister Agnes Markwick.

Territorial Force Nursing Service.—Sister Winifred Furze.

Civil Nursing Service.—Matron Elizabeth Davies, Matron Katherine Elphick, Matron Emilie Evans, Matron Mary Finlay, Matron Mary Gibb, Deputy Matron Effie Ross, Assistant Matron Jean Gibson, Assistant Matron Mary Fitz-Henry, Sister Haidee Cooper, Sister Alice Cowie, Sister Rosetta Day, Sister Lilian Donald, Sister Margaret Duffus, Sister Annie Dunbabin, Sister Alice Edwards, Sister Rachel Elliott, Sister Mary Elsdon, Sister Susan Foxe, Sister Sarah Francis, Sister Elizabeth Fraser, and Sister Emma Gardner.

The following announcement appears in the *London Gazette* of May 4th :—The undermentioned ladies are awarded the decoration of the Royal Red Cross in recognition of their valuable services in connection with the war :—

FIRST CLASS.

Miss Eva Charlotte Ellis Lückes, Chief Matron, London Hospital.

SECOND CLASS.

Miss Alice Mead, Sister, Convalecsent Hospital for Officers, Osborne ; Miss Marion Mole (for nursing services at Cambrai, 1914).

A contingent of American nurses, of the Harvard Unit, recently passed through London *en route* for active service in France. Our illustration was taken outside their hotel, and the central figure, holding papers, is Mrs. Hagar, the Matron in charge of the party. The good wishes of British nurses will accompany these representatives of our latest Ally, though the alliance between their respective governments can scarcely increase the cordial friendship which has existed for many years between British and American nurses federated in the International Council of Nurses.

MRS. HAGAR, MATRON.

HARVARD UNIT OF AMERICAN NURSES FOR SERVICE IN FRANCE.

The homeward-bound troop transport *Ballarat*, carrying a large number of the Australian Imperial Forces, was torpedoed by enemy submarine and sunk on April 25th, about 35 miles from the nearest land.

The discipline and steadiness displayed by the troops was magnificent, and everyone was saved. The *Times* correspondent writes :—

" Eighty out of every hundred of the soldiers were without kit. Many of them wore blue, others were coatless and hatless, some wore shoes and a few hospital cases were in pyjamas. During the whole of this critical time the only nurses aboard, Sisters Tatlow (Victoria) and Lord (Tasmania), who had been great favourites

with the troops, had shown conspicuous courage, going from company to company and helping the men to fasten their lifebelts, a work at which the three chaplains also gave aid."

The King has sent the troops an expression of his approbation. How about medals for Sisters Tatlow and Lord ? No doubt they will be forthcoming.

Nurse Colhoun, who has received a gold medal from the Crown Prince of Serbia " for conspicuous bravery in a most trying situation," and has been nursing at Salonica for some time, is an Irish nurse.

The friction arising from the method of organisation of Voluntary Aid Workers, a system for which the Army Medical Department of the War Office is responsible, was bound sooner or later to come to a head. The trained nurse has her own strong views upon it, and having in a logical and disciplined way expressed them to the responsible authority she keeps more or less silence during the war. Now it is the V.A.D.s whose grievances are explained at length in the public press. Considering the egregious claims made on her behalf it is scarcely surprising if the V.A.D. is *tête-montée*. The claim put forward by Mrs. Cantlie " the first woman to put on the V.A.D. uniform " in the *Daily Chronicle* is as follows :—" From the point of view of training it is equal, and, indeed, superior to that of the ordinary probationer. They have passed examinations in first aid and sick cooking, which the *debutante* in the professional ranks has not done, and again their actual nursing experience qualifies them to be considered as efficient as the peace time nurse who has trained for three years."

This encouragement of the V.A.D. to consider herself the professional equal, and indeed the superior of the three years' trained nurse cannot be too severely condemned. To give young women a few weeks' instruction in first aid, and sick room cooking—for a consideration—supplemented, if it can be obtained, by a brief—very brief—experience in a hospital, and then to send her to nurse in French Hospitals where she is " given a whole floor to look after " is to wrong the French soldier. It is also an injustice to the thousands of girls who have paid for this quite inadequate training. It would be interesting to know the amount of money paid by embryo V.A.D.s for " training," during the last few years, on the strength of the glittering and unsubstantial representations quoted above.

Excellent Nurses by Instinct.

The complaint of the V.A.D.s, however, as expressed in the *Weekly Dispatch*, is not against the superficial nature of their training—probably they do not appreciate it, but against being utilised, and treated " exactly as if they were ignorant servants " by society climbers who desire to run private hospitals on the cheap. We confess to some sympathy here with the V.A.D.s when they say " We are only too willing to wash and clean and scrub for Tommies and officers, but we see no reason why we should do housework for rich women who have private hospitals in their homes, and live there themselves."

It is a theme to which the talented pen of Mrs. John Lane, the creator of " Maria " and " Mrs. Dill Binkie " alone could do justice.

For the lady of the house to dispense with the domestic staff and utilise V.A.D.s to clean and dust her own suite, and to serve her and her friends at little luncheons and dinners, is no doubt good business, but it is not just, and if there were an efficient system of nursing inspection these abuses would never have been permitted. Again it is asserted " It is a well-known fact that a certain private hospital in Mayfair is taking paying patients as well as wounded officers, and is making good profits, for it has an efficient staff of V.A.D. workers to whom it pays nothing at all. These girls are planning resignation in a body."

The bed rock of all these abuses must be sought in the fact that the War Office is sharing financial responsibility in regard to sick and wounded soldiers, for whose care the nation is willing to pay, with irresponsible private persons. It is not only the Mrs. Dill Binkies who are endeavouring to get things done on the cheap, the War Office is also an offender. Personally, we have always strongly objected to a combination of business and philanthropy.

The nation is enormously taxed for the conduct of the war, and the sick and wounded should be a sacred charge on State expenditure.

Note From La Panne.

The following interesting note is from La Panne :—

" The treatment here, whether surgical or medical, seems very drastic to our ideas. Medicines two hourly, &c. The slightest rise of temperature and they keep patients on " absolute rest " and a fluid diet, &c. And I hear the surgical methods are equally drastic. Of course " Carel " prevails everywhere. The solution is in flask-shaped bottles hung above the beds with a tube syphoning from it and controlled by a clip. Then outside the dressing are glass distributing connections with tubes leading through the dressings into the wounds, sometimes as many as forty into one wound, and at intervals the clip is loosened and more solution allowed to flow in. What struck me was, how wet all the sheets seem to get ; this I believe is a great difficulty."

OUR ROLL OF HONOUR.

All hope is now abandoned of the rescue of the devoted women who were on the *Salta* when mined. Amongst them was Miss Clara McAlister, who was trained at St. Giles' Infirmary, Camberwell, and of whom the Matron writes :—" Her character and abilities were greatly admired and respected by all."

FRENCH FLAG NURSING CORPS.

We are glad to know that the Sisters have recently been kept very busy in their various sections, as if the suffering is there, it is a relief to know that their skill is being fully utilised. That is the highest ambition of every true nurse.

Quite recently we received the following letter from a Sister, and one a few days later reporting "most glorious spring sunshine; the little leaves are simply bursting out to see the sun, the primroses are all out and so beautiful, we are fortunate to have them within reach, as you know how fond the French soldiers are of flowers. They really ove them. One big boy begged for three sweet violets to enclose to his fiancée. 'Two purple, please, and one white.'"

"C'est Encore la Guerre."

"We have had snow and frost until yesterday! The poorer farmers are feeling this extraordinary weather terribly. Just now they cannot get proper food for the cows, grass, &c., being so scarce and poor. A small bundle of hay costs them up to 3 francs, and three bundles per cow daily makes it easier to realise the enormous price asked for butter. Frs. 5.60 la livre yesterday on the market. They say the cows at present only produce at the rate of 300 grammes of butter a day. I thought these little details might interest you! We had a sad experience two nights about ten days ago when we were asked to meet two trainloads of refugees from the invaded districts in the neighbourhood of Bapaume, St. Quentin, &c. These poor, miserable people, so cold, hungry and travel-worn, all with the same pitiful tale of homelessness and poverty brought the cruel misery of this war home to us more than anything had ever done before. Old men and women, some blind, some lame; small children, tiny babies, one only a few days old; tired, worried-looking mothers all huddled up together in carriages without either light or warmth, not complaining of actual personal cruelty but of the ruthless deliberate destruction of their homes, &c., by the Germans. On the first occasion the train was very late and only arrived at the station at 3 a.m. The snow lay thickly on the platform and it was bitterly cold. Being a very wretched night the Red Cross ladies were conspicuous by their absence, and we F.F.N.C. Sisters, had the work to ourselves.

This consisted in going from carriage to carriage with warm milk for the babies and small children, and plates of soup for the adults, with large chunks of "war" bread. Hot coffee and hot wine for those who cared for them. Poor things! They were so pathetically grateful for food and the few words of sympathy one could give them! The mothers would not touch anything until their poor, tired babies had been fed. The things saved from the ruins made many pathetic bundles, some as big and heavy as the small children in charge of them while the mothers carried still smaller children. As this train had no very ill people on board no one got off at our station, and after the last drinks were given it resumed its journey. Our work being finished, we went off to our various abodes to snatch a few hours' sleep before "getting up" time. On getting into my comfortable bed I thought of those tired homeless people spending such dreary hours on the hard train seats, after their trying dreadful experiences. The following night we were again told to meet a train of refugees, but this time the weather was fine and not so cold, and the Red Cross ladies well to the fore, leaving only the 'gaps' to fill in by us. However, our chance of helping came along when after the meal a large number of old, infirm people, mothers with babies, and small, tired, sleepy children with huge bundles had to be transferred from the train to the waiting rooms, and again from there to the room for examination of papers, &c. The children were too sleepy to resent being carried by strangers, poor little mites! One woman had succeeded in bringing a large, beautiful grey sheepdog. It had been 'taken prisoner,' she said, by a boche officer, and after many weeks she had succeeded in persuading the officer to return her dog! After the examination of papers, &c., the people were all helped into various motors and taken to the various Homes and Hospitals where they were expected. I shall never forget the sight of those poor, miserable, stricken creatures, so brave and so philosophical under the circumstances. 'Que voulez vous? C'est encore la guerre,' they said."

CARE OF THE WOUNDED.

On May 3rd Queen Alexandra visited the sick and wounded soldiers who have returned from the front at the South African Military Hospital in Richmond Park, who greatly appreciate her kind interest in their suffering.

At the suggestion of Bishop Ryle, the Dean of Westminster, the Ascension Day service in the Abbey on Thursday, May 17th, at 3 p.m., will be a service of thanksgiving for the work of the Red Cross. Special arrangements are being made for the accommodation of walking wounded and their nurses.

A very splendid bazaar was opened by Queen Alexandra at the Albert Hall on Monday in aid of St. Dunstan's Hostel for Sailors and Soldiers who have lost their sight in the war. We are glad to know it has been a magnificent financial success. Every heart is touched by the tragedy of these brave men.

We are glad to hear that County Councils are falling in with a new scheme of the Board of Control, under which sailors and soldiers who have become certifiably mentally affected owing to military service will be received into County Asylums, after reconversion, under a separate

classification called "Service" patients, to a private class of patients maintained by the State, and not as so-called "pauper" patients maintained from Poor-Law Union Funds. This is right and proper, but why should any unfortunate deranged person be classed as a "pauper"? It is a word that should be eliminated from our vocabulary. We abominate it.

The Russian Exhibition held during the past week at the Grafton Gallery, in aid of the Anglo-Russian Hospital, was a very interesting one, and there were many and beautiful exhibits.

The surgical appliance section had to fall back on the dressings that were destined for the Russian Hospitals, as those that were on their way to the Exhibition from Russia went to the bottom of the sea with a torpedoed vessel. There was a large collection of sacred ikons, many of which had an historical as well as artistic value. Embroidery, silver, lovely enamel jewellery, and priests' vestments were among the exhibits.

There was a large case of dolls dressed in the costumes of Russians of various ranks, amongst which was a domestic nurse holding a baby. The nurse wore a costume of a beautiful and most becoming rose colour and held the baby, which was done up in a sort of satin and lace parcel. We regret to state that it had attached a "comforter" in great prominence.

A most interesting collection of war photographs hung around the room where tea, served Russian fashion in glasses with sliced lemon, was distributed by ladies in the costume of the country.

Those who wore the heavily ornamented coifs with strings of pearls and long gauze veils represented princesses in Court dress.

The young girls wore costumes of pale blue with caps of the same colour ornamented with swansdown and silver tassels.

At intervals in the theatre there were examples given of Russian dances.

We sincerely hope that this attractive and instructive exhibition will swell the funds of the Anglo-Russian Hospital to an appreciable degree.

The King and Queen will attend a service at Westminster Abbey on July 2nd in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Confederation of Canada, and also in memory of Canadians who have fallen in the war.

The Germans have threatened the "sharpest reprisals" should the British Government place German prisoners on hospital ships.

The Duke and Duchess of Portland are presenting to wounded soldiers in Nottingham and the district, pneumatic adjustable crutches, the invention of the duke's chief motor engineer, Mr. A. Hunter. The crutch has a pneumatic head instead of a solid wooden one. This acts as a cushion for the arm, and reduces to a minimum "crutch paralysis."

JOINT WAR COMMITTEE.

The following Sisters have been deputed for duty in Home Hospitals:—

Aux. Hosp., Petersfield, Hants.—Miss C. Birch Miss M. Hardie, Mrs. B. M. Merewether.

Brunner Mond Hosp., Middlewich.—Miss E. M. M. H. Bridges.

Old Hastings House, Hastings.—Miss A. M. Bowie.

V.A. Hosp., Sidmouth.—Miss A. Jex-Robinson, Miss L. Preston.

Hampstead Aux. Hosp., Golder's Green.—Mrs. G. Clarke.

Bigadon House, Buckfastleigh, Devon.—Miss M. M. Rigden.

Longroyde Aux. Mil. Hosp., Brighouse.—Miss M. McLeod.

Bolling Red Cross Hosp., Malpas.—Miss B. M. Norton.

Dallington House V.A. Hosp., Northampton.—Miss E. Himing.

Red Cross Hosp., Highfield Hall, Southampton.—Miss E. D. Jones.

Aux. Mil. Hosp., Hampton Court.—Miss E. C. Tyler.

Normanhurst V.A. Hosp., Battle.—Miss M. F. Cox.

Abbott's Barton, Canterbury.—Miss N. K. Barton.

Caerneoch Aux. Hosp., Dolgelly.—Miss E. Martin.

The Glen Hosp., Southend-on-Sea.—Miss E. K. Byrne.

St. John V.A. Hosp., Hull.—Miss L. E. C. Johnson, Miss F. J. Pearse, Miss H. George, Miss M. E. Dale.

V.A. Hosp., Bourne, Lincs.—Miss M. E. Winterton.

Roy Bath Hosp., Harrogate.—Miss S. L. Pain.

Trent Hosp., Sherborne, Dorset.—Miss K. E Horsell

Wicklow Lodge Hosp., Melton Mowbray.—Miss M. Davies.

Davis Hosp., Bideford.—Miss M. Reid.

V.A. Hosp., Mortimer, Berks.—Miss G. Scott.

Hosp. for Officers, 16, Bruton Street.—Miss M. F. White.

Barham Mil. Hosp., Weybridge.—Miss M. K. Burton.

Hazlewood Red Cross Hosp. Ryde. Miss M. Johnson.

V.A.D. Hosp., Plymouth.—Miss I. G. Cameron.

Buckden Red Cross Hosp., Huntingdon.—Miss L. Huggins.

Hatchlands Hosp., Guildford.—Miss A. Wood.

Red Cross Hosp., The Green, Richmond.—Miss G. Nolan, Miss I. S. Elvens.

ABROAD.

The following Sisters have been deputed to duty abroad:—

Boulogne Headquarters.—Miss M. F. Waugh.

La Panne.—Miss A. Norland, Miss B. Golding.

Corsica, Scottish Women's Hosp.—Miss E. T. Thorne, Miss C. A. Findlay, Miss A. S. Viddell, Miss M. Douglas.

SOUTHWARK MILITARY HOSPITAL.

Southwark War Hospital, which was originally the East Dulwich Poor Law Infirmary provides accommodation for more than 800 patients. In addition there are three auxiliary hospitals connected with it, which each draw upon the parent institution for domestic stores, bed linen, &c., so it may be seen that the Matron's administrative powers are severely taxed.

In spite of the fact that our visit came close upon the heels of the Committee Meeting, and on the day of the examination of the probationers, the Matron, Miss R. Wallace, with the greatest courtesy and kindness found time to show us a great deal of the hospital working. There is a large proportion of Colonial troops, Australians, South Africans, and Canadians, and we are told that they are delightful patients, so cheery and so very pleased and grateful for all that is done for them.

We met on our way to the hospital the simple funeral of one of the South African men, the coffin covered with the Union Jack, and his comrades preceding the hearse. Far away from home and friends, they supplied the only mourners.

We were taken to the Chapel where the service had just been held, and we felt that here in this hospital, there was an atmosphere that is too often lacking elsewhere.

On Sunday morning there is a sort of Church Parade and the Chapel is well filled, but at the early Communion Service, and on Sunday evening the voluntary attendance is good also.

The wards are long and bright, and we were struck by the large number of men in bed, but even these were smoking and reading or playing games. There was a complete absence of anything like irritating restraint, and as a result it was not surprising to hear the Matron say that she had no trouble at all in the management of her large family.

Tents are erected in the grounds for the sleeping accommodation of some of the men who are up all day, and these are comfortably fitted with bedsteads and lockers and are cosy and warm.

Large convoys come in from time to time, and they have had the honour of receiving the wounded Canadians after the recent great rush when they covered themselves with glory, and the Anzacs after their historic struggle at Gallipoli.

Everything possible is done at the Southwark War Hospital to alleviate their suffering, and to render less wearisome the time of convalescence, and we think they are fortunate in being under the capable and discriminating lady who is chief of the nursing staff. "Think," she says, "of what they have done for us."

In order that the V.A.D. probationers may be of more use to the sisters and staff nurses, Miss Wallace allows them to share the lectures of the first year probationers.

The huge pile of buildings and grounds when we were there were gay and fragrant with hyacinths.

H. H.

BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION AND DIRECT REPRESENTATION.

The Supplement to the *British Medical Journal*, May 5th, reports that the Annual Representative Meeting of the Association will be held in London on July 26th and receive reports on the enormous amount of work both for the medical profession and the public accomplished by the various committees during the year. The Medico-Political Committee deals with the State Registration of Nurses, Clause 86, and reports that:—

The A.R.M., 1916 (Min. 147), instructed the Council to take into consideration the possibility of establishing by means of the proposed Bill of the College of Nursing Ltd., the general principles desired by the Association in respect of State Registration of Nurses, and whether the Association would be justified in supporting the Bill. For the present the negotiations with the College of Nursing are interrupted, but the Council has instructed the representatives of the Association on the Central Committee for State Registration of Nurses to join with the other bodies represented on that Committee in any further attempts which may be made to construct an agreed Bill, and meanwhile to aid in the present policy of that Committee in introducing a Bill into Parliament on its own account. The Council has also taken steps to secure that representatives of the medical profession upon provisional and permanent Nursing Councils under any such Bill shall be nominated by the Association.

PROGRESS OF STATE REGISTRATION.

The American Journal of Nursing announce that the Bill for State Registration in South Dakota, which became a law on January 24th, adds another to the States having laws in operation, the total number now being 43. The nurses in this State have succeeded in obtaining an exceedingly good Bill, and its passage through both Houses occupied only four days. The Law is compulsory. The Board of Examiners is composed of three nurses, nominated by the State Association of Nurses, and one member of the State Board of Health appointed by the Governor.

Forty-three States have now Nurses' Registration Acts in operation, and the first was passed in 1903. With one exception, we believe, the administrating Boards are nominated by State Nurses' Organisations, and the professional standards defined and administered by them.

Compare this marvellous progress in the great Republic with the abysmal ignorance and jealous obstruction in this country, where, after thirty years unceasing work by professional nurses, laymen still demand the right to evolve their professional standards and control their professional lives. It does not take a Solomon to realise the remedy!

THE MATRONS' COUNCIL OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

We are indebted to Mr. Eustace Miles for the following notes of his address to the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland on April 27th, which was listened to with so much interest and enjoyment by those present. After the meeting several of the Matrons asked Mr. Eustace Miles to address other organisations of nurses, which, we hear, he has kindly consented to do.

FOOD ECONOMY, AND HEALTH.

By Eustace Miles, M.A.

A great deal of our Health depends upon our Food; and a great deal of it, also, depends upon our mastication of our food. In America there are tens of thousands of people who masticate and insalivate their food thoroughly, and are far healthier in consequence, and are satisfied with a far smaller quantity of food—a matter of great importance to-day.

But here I wish rather to deal with the Principles of Food-Value.

The first is sufficient flavour to arouse the interest and appetite and digestive juices, and help the digestion. Flavour can easily be obtained from herbs, various sauces, onions, lemon, and so forth.

Proteid is the body-building and tissue-repairing element. Personally, I prefer to get my Proteid chiefly from our own special Proteid Foods. Most people get theirs from the flesh-foods, and fish and fowl, and lately more and more from eggs and cheese. Nuts are prohibitive in price, pulses (peas, beans, and lentils) are objectionable, because they are not advisable in more than small quantities, and they need the best possible cookery. In our little Cookery School at Chandos Street it is the pulses that need the most careful treatment. There is less Proteid in most of the cereals, and scarcely any in vegetables, fruits, and salads.

Then there is the fat or oil, which can be obtained from good butters and nut margarines, and from oil itself, of which the Jews know the full value. So do all people in the East, especially in the warm weather. English people take far too much starchy and sugary stuff, and far too little oil.

As to the "Salts," one could say a vast amount about them, but there is no space here. They include soda, potash, iron, lime, and magnesia. Without them there cannot be proper digestion, assimilation, excretion, circulation. No physical and nervous work can be well done without the right supply and balance of "Salts." They are obtained best from fresh salads and conservatively cooked green vegetables. Fruit, if taken to excess, has the disadvantage of producing "acidosis," especially in the cold weather.

I say nothing here about starch and sugar, because there is no fear of our starving for want of these things.

These principles of Food-Value can be made concrete; and any reader of these words is welcome to a few simple hints and recipes founded on successful personal experiences.

Besides Food, Breathing is a great factor in Health. Instead of the Breathing being upwards, with the shoulders lifted, as in the Swedish System, the main Breathing should be deep as well as full, the shoulders being kept back and down, and the inhaling being chiefly through the lowering of the diaphragm, with some outward expansion of the ribs. This is the Breathing which most women lack. It has an enormous effect upon the nerves, the endurance, the feelings in general, and the Health.

Then there is Stretching. In nearly all our work we tend to bring our shoulders forward, and to let our organs sag down and to become cramped like crabs; whereas, if we get our fingers and hands and arms stretched back and down, and our head stretched up and back and down, this will draw up our organs into something nearer to their right position. Then we should try to keep the organs up.

We should also try to relax our muscles—our eyes and hands and so forth. The relaxing of the muscles is a great economiser of energy, and a great help to the nerves.

These are only a few hints; but they are hints of great importance, because they involve no expense, and they are practices which each person can carry out without difficulty. They do not depend on anything external, except occasionally on privacy.

NURSES' DAY.

ALL IS NOT GOLD THAT GLITTERS.

Wednesday, May 2nd, was a veritable Nurses' Day, and it was a curious coincidence that whilst those in favour of the College policy, Royal Patronage, lay control, and charity for the nursing profession, were enjoying a concert organised for them by Mr. Victor Beigel at the Queen's Hall, and in the interval listening to an appeal for public funds in war time in support of the Benevolent and Endowment Fund of the College from the Honble. Arthur Stanley, representatives of the National Union of Trained Nurses, the Scottish Nurses' Association, and the Irish Nurses' Association, were received in deputation by Mr. G. J. Wardle, the Chairman of the Labour Party, introduced by Mrs. Sidney Webb, one of the most brilliant exponents of social and industrial economy in the country, who placed before him their opinions on nursing politics, and petitioned his support for just conditions for practising nurses should legislation be introduced for the organisation of their work by the State.

In Bond Street, the Committee of the British Women's Hospital received Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, the founder of the British Nurses' Association, the National, and International Councils of Nurses, and protagonist of the State Registration of

Nurses' movement for thirty years, who, in an exhaustive address, placed before them the history of the movement since 1887 until this day, of the struggle of trained nurses for their professional enfranchisement through a Registration Bill, through which they might organise the educational and economic standards of their own profession, for the benefit of the public and the nursing profession—a campaign which has cost the nurses upwards of £20,000, owing to the powerful and interested opposition of the Nurse Training Schools and their officials to any form of self-governing co-operation and control for working nurses.

Whilst Mr. Stanley was publicly inviting charitable aid in support of his scheme, Mrs. Fenwick repudiated the suggestion that self-respecting members of the nursing profession had suggested the appeal, or been consulted on the subject, and expressed the opinion that to make a charitable appeal upon their behalf in war time not only impugned the patriotism of trained nurses but would undermine their professional and personal independence. Altogether a very momentous day, and one pregnant with hope for those nurses who are determined not to sell their birthright for a mess of patronage. Shackles are none the less fetters because they are made of gold.

A CHARITABLE APPEAL FOR THE COLLEGE OF NURSING.

Queen Alexandra, Princess Victoria and Princess Christian were present at the concert held on May 2nd, at the Queen's Hall, under the auspices of the College of Nursing. The Queen was received by the Honble. Arthur Stanley, M.P., Chairman of the Council of the College of Nursing; Miss Swift, R.R.C., Matron-in-Chief of the Joint Committee; Miss Becher, R.R.C., Matron-in-Chief of the Military Nursing Service; Miss Sidney Browne, R.R.C., Matron-in-Chief of the Territorial Nursing Service; and Miss Lloyd Still, R.R.C., representing the nurse training schools.

The idea of the concert, which was organized by Mr. Victor Beigel, who has given many concerts in connection with the Red Cross, was that it should be one to which the nurses should come for real enjoyment and without any of the responsibilities of looking after patients; and the programme was evidently greatly enjoyed by the guests, who encored many of the performers, and brought the concert to a conclusion by themselves singing with great fervour, "Land of Hope and Glory."

Mr. Stanley, in the interval, made a brief speech, referring to the College of Nursing and the Nation's Fund for Nurses. He said that if the College was to be a success, they must have money. They did not want to start off with great names and large sums from distinguished people, but with the small sums of those who owed much to the ministrations of the nurses. It appeared to be the right moment to ask the British public for this money, when hundreds of thousands of their men were being tended by these devoted women.

Miss Compton, representing the British Women's Hospital (promoted by the Actresses' Franchise League), announced that they were prepared to give their support in every possible way in raising "The Nation's Fund for Nurses."

We learn that the British Women's Hospital Committee, having been informed of the strong opposition of many trained nurses to a charitable appeal being made upon their behalf in War time, and objecting to undertake work of a controversial nature, has decided to postpone for the present any work for the "Nation's Fund for Nurses."

The suggestion, emanating presumably from the College officials, that the "Tommies" should be invited to support this appeal, has caused profound indignation throughout the organized nurses' societies. This is the first fruits of government without consent.

SOCIETY FOR STATE REGISTRATION OF TRAINED NURSES.

A Meeting of the Executive Committee was held at 431, Oxford Street, London, on May 3rd, Mrs. Fenwick in the Chair.

New Members.

After the election of new members the arrangements for the Annual Meeting were considered.

The Annual Meeting.

It was agreed that the meeting should be held in London on June 7th next, and that a full report of the year's activities should be presented.

The President reminded the meeting that the object of the Society was to promote a Bill for the State Registration of Trained Nurses in Parliament; representative of the interests of all concerned, on the Governing Body on which the Registered Nurses would from the first have direct representation, and which, after a three years' term of grace, provided for the protected title and definition of "Registered Nurse," and also for a Central Examination before registration, principles accepted by Parliament in the Medical, Midwives, and Teachers Acts.

The Society therefore supported the Bill drafted by the Central Committee for State Registration, and would oppose any Bill which did not include these fundamental principles. The President said the nursing profession was passing through a very grave crisis, owing to the policy of the College of Nursing, Ltd., which was inspired and largely directed by lay opinion, and maintained the demand of lay control for the Nursing Profession. There was no means for the expression of independent nursing opinion on its Council, as none of the nominated matrons were at liberty to accept

seats on its Council without the approval and consent of their committees. They therefore represented Hospital Committees, and not trained nurses, and should the interests of employer and employed clash, the nominated Matrons must obey their Committees or resign. The position was unprofessional and dangerous to the profession at large.

THE NATION'S FUND FOR NURSES.

The President reported that without consulting the feelings or opinions of trained nurses the College of Nursing, Ltd., had approached the British Women's Hospital Committee and invited them to make a charitable appeal for a Benevolent and Endowment Fund for the College (which proposed to monopolise the control of the Nurses' Register), thus presenting the nation's nurses as objects of charity. At any time a charitable appeal for their personal needs was bound to outrage the self-respect of many professional nurses, but during the supreme national crisis of this devastating war it did more—it impugned the patriotism of the Nursing Profession, which was keenly alive to the significance of the struggle, and, moreover, realised as no other class of women could, the appalling suffering entailed upon our Navy and Army, and the vital necessity that every farthing that could be subscribed should be spent in ameliorating the results of the ghastly mutilation, the physical and mental agony of men who were sacrificing life, and all that makes life worth living to save the Empire, and to protect its women and children from a fate worse than death.

Trained nurses were not insensible to the world's terrible tragedy.

Upon the request of colleagues, who, with her, felt outraged in every fibre that in their name such an appeal had been couched, the President reported that she had communicated with the Committee of the British Women's Hospital Fund, and asked that she might be received and speak upon their behalf.

This request was courteously acceded to, and on the previous day she had placed before that Committee the opinions of those trained nurses to whom it was most repugnant that any appeal for public funds should be made for them during the War, when the needs of the sick and wounded, lonely broken-hearted women and orphaned children required all the sympathy, self-denial and every penny the nation could spare from support of War Loans. The endowment of Nursing Education after the war would need consideration, but charitable doles the profession would not accept without emphatic public protest. The nurses had not asked for them, and they strongly objected to any form of patronage being thrust upon them through the initiative of the College of Nursing, Ltd., which had denied representation to the rank and file on its Council, the while demanding the control of their professional Register, and, as a result, the control of the economic condition of the profession at large.

The President reported that she had received a most sympathetic hearing from the British Women's Hospital Committee, and had that morning been assured in a letter from its Chairwoman that "in view of the fact that the Committee do not care to undertake work of a controversial nature, and until such time as the points under consideration have been fully analysed, we have thought it wise to postpone, for the present, any work for the Nurses' Fund."

This announcement was received by those present with sincere relief, and the following resolution was passed unanimously and directed to be conveyed to the British Women's Hospital Committee :—

RESOLUTION.

"The Executive Committee of the Society for State Registration of Trained Nurses desires to express its sincere thanks to the Committee of the British Women's Hospital Fund for permitting its President to represent its views on the subject of a charitable appeal for the Nursing Profession, and to re-iterate its strong objection to any appeal being made in the name of Trained Nurses during the War, as it feels that every penny available should either be invested in the War Loan, in support of the Government in the prosecution of the War, or subscribed in aid of the sick and wounded sailors and soldiers shattered in health, physically and mentally, owing to their heroic defence of the cause of the Allies."

The meeting then terminated.

MARGARET BREAY,
Hon. Secretary.

AN IMPORTANT DEPUTATION.

TRAINED NURSES AND THE LABOUR PARTY.

A deputation of trained nurses, organised by the National Union of Trained Nurses, and representing this Union, the Scottish Nurses' Association and the Irish Nurses' Association, was received on Wednesday afternoon, May 2nd, at the House of Commons by Mr. G. J. Wardle, M.P., Chairman of the Labour Party, on the subject of the State Registration of Trained Nurses and their adequate representation on their governing body.

The deputation was introduced by Mrs. Sidney Webb, who pointed out that a Bill for State Registration of Nurses had been carried through the House of Lords in 1908, and in 1914 a similar measure was endorsed by a large majority of the House of Commons, but further proceedings were suspended by the war. In 1916 a quite different scheme was started by the Hon. Arthur Stanley, M.P., under the guise of a College of Nursing, the fundamental objection to which is that it sets up a Council which, for the first two years, is not to include direct representation of the nurses themselves, or their associations. The nurses and their associations object most strongly to this lack of representation for the vital period

of two years, during which the principal regulations affecting their profession will be made.

A general statement of the position was made by Miss M. Heather Bigg, the President of the National Union of Trained Nurses, who concluded by asking for the support of Labour for the working nurses' Bill, which provides for democratic representation and control, and makes for freedom and economic independence.

This principle of direct representation was emphasised in a Statement by Dr. McGregor Robertson on behalf of the Scottish Nurses' Association, who claimed that the nurses themselves and the work of their organised societies should be recognised in any Bill for State Registration of Nurses.

The Irish Nurses' Association pointed out the injustice of allowing a British College of Nursing to have control of the State Register of Nurses, through Mrs. Porter, a former President of the Association, one of its delegates, and urged the point that the charge of the Register of Trained Nurses should be given to an independent body, constituted under the Nurses' Registration Act, and that no monopoly should be given to any College.

The representative of the National Union of Trained Nurses, Miss H. L. Pearse, showed how closely the economic question was connected with any Register for nurses and therefore the necessity for safeguarding the interests of the workers, which must not be imperilled by the domination of the employers on their governing body.

After thanking Mr. Wardle for his courtesy in receiving them, the deputation withdrew.

NATIONAL UNION OF TRAINED NURSES.

As there is a widespread misunderstanding on the subject of the Bills that have been drafted for the State Registration of Nurses, and the reasons for the differences of opinion, the National Union of Trained Nurses will be pleased to send a speaker to explain the principles involved to any meeting, or to the staff of any institution. Requests should be sent to the Hon. Sec., N.U.T.N., 46, Marsham Street, Westminster, S.W. 1, where also personal enquiries may be made.

The Union will be very grateful for offers of voluntary help in copying Health Posters, as there is a great demand for Baby Week.

THE IRISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

The Monthly Meeting of the I.N.A. was held on Saturday, May 5th. There was a good attendance. A Report was read of the sympathetic reception by the Chairman of the Labour Party in the House of Commons, of a Deputation on behalf of State Registration of Trained Nurses. Mrs. Porter and Miss M. Breay represented the I.N.A.

With regard to the Federation of I.N.A. with the N.U.T.N. which has lately taken place, the Secretary of the latter has intimated that Mrs. Corbett will represent them on the Committee of the I.N.A. As Mrs. Corbett lives in Ireland, the Committee hope to see her very often at their meetings.

The I.N.A. Committee have asked Mrs. Porter to represent them on the N.U.T.N. Council. The arrangements for the establishment of the Irish Nursing Board are progressing; the scheme is now in the hands of the printers.

It is greatly to be deplored that in its partisan advocacy of the College of Nursing scheme the *Weekly Irish Times* is attacking most unjustly the Irish Nurses' Association—quoting the venomous statements circulated by the Burdett press, and attempting to belittle the long and honourable record of the pioneer workers for higher education and State Registration in Ireland. These ladies have, however, proved their mettle in the past, and will, we feel sure, continue to work as conscience and intelligence dictates. There never was a more unblushing "theft of thunder."

NURSES' MISSIONARY LEAGUE.

Morning Session.

The Fifteenth Annual Conference and Meeting of the Nurses' Missionary League was held at the University Hall, Gordon Square, London, W.C. on May 2nd. The subject chosen for discussion was, "Character Building: The Most Important Thing in the World." The Morning Session, at which there was a large attendance, was presided over by Miss Macfee, in the unavoidable absence of Miss M. F. Daniel, who was to have occupied the Chair. The proceedings were opened by the singing of the National Anthem, followed by prayer.

Miss Richardson, the popular Secretary, made the welcome announcement that, in spite of difficulties, the summer camps would be held as usual. One at Gerrard's Cross in June, and the other in the North of England in July. She considered that two things marked the past year—Progress and Opportunity.

The Nurses of the League were to be found in the Military Hospitals all over the area of the war. Many of them had won distinctions and decorations. The opportunities had been tremendous for all women, so that they could never be the same women they were two years ago.

Miss Macfee spoke on Character—"The Foundation of all true Character Building." She pointed out that the foundation always determined the shape of the building. The Sermon on the Mount was the structure on which to build the Christian character. Standing out amongst its precepts was renunciation. The Nursing Profession had thought no price too high to pay in the present war, but they should also face the other price, the absolute acknowledgment of Christ as their Master.

Miss C. L. Maynard, late Principal of Westfield College, spoke on "The Material for all true Character Building." She said that the opportunities were far more numerous now than formerly. Though ability and attainment were both very

desirable things, it was character that really counted the most, and this was far more recognised at the present day than it used to be. This was brought out when references were applied for. "What sort of a person is she"? matters more now than "What degree has she taken"? Many could teach a child Latin who could never lead the child.

Mrs. Sturge spoke on "The Result of all true Character Building," and illustrated her remarks with the story of Martha and Mary. It was, she said, easier to do than to be. Some people were so aggressively anxious to do good to others that one felt one would rather remain bad than be done good to by them. Other people there were who made the place fragrant by just being what they were.

The morning session closed with intercession.

AFTERNOON CONVERSAZIONE.

The afternoon was devoted to a Conversazione, and the room was transformed with little tea tables, gay with flowers, that were dotted about, and which were soon surrounded with groups of happy nurses exchanging confidences and experiences. Miss Richardson and Miss Macfee were as usual indefatigable in looking after the comfort of their guests and in welcoming new comers. The hostesses were Mrs. Weir (Bart's and Korea), Miss Hope Bell (The London and China), Miss F. E. Campbell (Guy's and S. India), Miss Carswell (King's College and Korea), Miss I. Tait (St. Bart's and China.)

Miss Harris recited "Prince" and "A Song of England." The latter was particularly charming, and both were most effectively rendered.

During the afternoon there were addresses from various speakers. Miss Campbell gave an interesting account of the "Sphere of a Missionary Nurse in South India." She said that there, a nurse must be prepared to do many things that in England would not be in her province. The line which divided the nurse's work from the doctors' often vanished altogether. She described how the women when in labour would be removed to the cattle shed, and they were confined amidst all the filth. She herself had to dig a channel to divert the excreta from the cows running towards her patient. The mortality among both mothers and babies was something appalling. The diet for the mother was a mixture of red pepper, flour, melted butter and water. She was kept in the dark for a whole month; indeed, for the better classes who could afford the time the period was three months. She described how, when a case of pneumonia refused a diet of curry and rice, no attempt was made to provide her with any other food, and she would have died if the nurse had not come to the rescue.

These people were most anxious to learn, though the instructions given were diametrically opposed to all their customs.

Miss Campbell wore an Indian costume while delivering her very interesting address.

Miss Hope Bell, who wore a Chinese costume, spoke on work in China. She described how two old women came several miles in a wheelbarrow to ask that they might be baptised. On questioning them she found they knew absolutely nothing of Christianity, but they gave as their reason that they wished to be like Dr. ——, who was a Christian.

She mentioned with deep regret the recent death of Nurse Pocock in Central China, who had died of scarlet fever on the eve of starting for new work which involved great sacrifice.

EVENING SESSION.

Lt.-Col. Carless, M.S., F.R.C.S., R.A.M.C., presided over the evening Meeting. Dr. Crichton Miller, in moving the adoption of the Report, said that he considered that a nurse who had no message, was nothing short of a tragedy. They had a continuous and uninterrupted influence over the men, and the majority of the men were always ready to be helped. Their influence must be used with tact, or the cause might be made a fool of. He instanced a nurse whom he knew, who was most reserved, and would probably have died before she would have suggested reading a chapter to a patient, yet it was impossible for her to be in a ward without her presence having an almost electrical effect. She was a direct reflection of God's countenance. He urged the greater use of the Study Circles.

The Chairman spoke of the need of controlled feelings. He had known nurses who were absolutely callous. On the other hand, there were dear ladies in the Voluntary Hospitals who absolutely spoilt the men by their uncontrolled sympathy.

There were two ways of doing things. A gracious way and a rough and ready way. More could be done by grace and kindness than by any attempt to ram religion down the throats of the patients. Patients sized up their nurses and doctors pretty accurately.

Miss Catherine Ironside, M.B., spoke on "The Sphere of the Missionary Nurse in Persia." She said that the work in Persia differed from that of many other Missions, as it was a purely Mahommedan land; being under the British Government made all the difference. It was remarkable that in non-Christian lands there was never any scientific knowledge of surgery that had not been obtained from Christians. In Persia they had to contend against deep-rooted ideas and prejudices. Decisions as to the choice of the doctor, &c., were made by the casting of lots. Their diseases were in one of two classifications—hot diseases and cold diseases. If one ordered medicine or food in the wrong category one's influence was correspondingly weakened. Dr. Ironside pleaded for more nurses and doctors. There were so many operations that ought to be done. There was so much unnecessary suffering and loss of life, and the need of the country was tremendous.

The bookstall, presided over by Miss Macfee, exhibited many new and interesting missionary works, many of which were at very moderate prices. It appeared to be well patronised by the members.

The closing address was given by the Rev. C. Mollan Williams, on the subject "New Days." He sketched briefly the present position in the mission field, showing that doors have not been closed by the war. In India countless crowds are conscious of a larger life, and are pleading for the Gospel. The same is true of Nigeria, and also of China, though there the forward movement is among the most learned of the people. There are, too, specially great opportunities in connection with the womanhood of the world; and there are various new responsibilities, as in "German" East Africa where the places of the German missionaries must be filled. The claims of the mission field are being brought home to the soldiers now in India, and to others through the Y.M.C.A. There is a specially strong call to women. The "contemptible little army" of missionaries has hitherto saved the situation, but it needs to be reinforced by many more recruits.

Throughout the day the Nurses were hospitably entertained at intervals with light refreshments. The promoters of the Conference are to be warmly congratulated on having achieved such a pleasant and inspiring meeting, which was successful from all points of view, and we hope and believe will advance further the objects for which it was promoted.

QUEEN VICTORIA'S JUBILEE INSTITUTE FOR NURSES.

Resignation of Miss Amy Hughes.

We have received the following official notification:—

The Council of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute were notified, at their meeting on May 2nd, of the resignation by Miss Amy Hughes of the post of General Superintendent of the Institute, which was accepted by the Council with very great regret. The Council expressed the wish that Miss Hughes should continue her connection with the Institute by representing it on the Committees and at meetings of certain Nursing and other Institutions whose objects render collaboration with the Institute desirable.

Miss Hughes' connection with District Nursing dates from the year 1885, when she left St. Thomas' Hospital to join the Metropolitan and National Association in Bloomsbury. She inaugurated District Nursing in the Metropolitan areas of Kensington, Chelsea and Westminster, and was placed on the Queen's Roll in 1891. With the exception of six years, occupied in Nursing work unconnected with the Institute, Miss Hughes has been engaged in District work from 1885 until the present time. In 1902 she was appointed Superintendent of County Nursing Associations. There were at that time five of these affiliated to the Q.V.J.I. The number is now twenty-six. To the greatly increased public interest in the work of District Nurses and to the wide extension of their influence as—in Miss Nightingale's phrase—Health Missionaries, the ability and enthusiasm of Miss Hughes has conspicuously contributed during the twelve years she has held the important position of General Superintendent to the Institute. It will be a satisfaction to her many friends, as well as to the Council of the Q.V.J.I., that "in a position of greater freedom and less responsibility" her connection with District Nursing will be maintained.

Appointment of Queen's Nurses.

Her Majesty Queen Alexandra has been graciously pleased to approve the appointment of the following to be Queen's Nurses, to date April 1st, 1917:—

England.—Isabella Kelly, Ethel I. Reeder, Kathleen M. Willett, Ethel A. Dale, Elizabeth Morris, Lilias Fraser, Rachel Davies, Ellen Phelan, Margaret Wilkinson, Lilian M. N. Lewis, Harriet J. V. Hime, Minnie Deverill, Jessie M. Newland, Bertha A. Carter, Barbara Lacey, Bridget E. McGoldrick, Mary Porteous, Alice McGarrell, Ellen Walsh.

Wales.—Janet Lewis, Sarah Thomas.

Scotland.—Euphemia R. M. Oudney, Eveline Bates, Janet B. Dowdy, Allanina MacLean.

APPOINTMENTS.

SUPERINTENDENT OF NIGHT NURSES.

The Infirmary, Kensington, W.—Miss Mabel Turner has been appointed Superintendent of Night Nurses. She was trained at the Cardiff Union Hospital, and has been Ward Sister there, and at the Shirley Warren Infirmary, and the City of Westminster Infirmary, and Night Sister at the Cardiff Union Hospital.

SISTER.

Hospital of St. Cross, Rugby. — Miss Jennie Morgan has been appointed Sister of women's medical and surgical wards and the X Ray department. She was trained at the Wolverhampton and Staffordshire General Hospital, and has had special children's experience at the Cripple Children's Hospital, Northfield, and been Night Sister at the General Hospital, Weston-super-Mare.

HEALTH VISITOR.

Borough of Chesterfield.—Miss Julia S. Clarke has been appointed Health Visitor. She was trained at the Stamford and Rutland General Infirmary and at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, London, and has held the position of Health Visitor at Derby.

EXAMINATIONS.

Twenty nurses have recently passed the final examination for certificates at the St. Giles' Infirmary, Camberwell, where, under the able administration of Miss Marquardt, the Matron, a very high standard of efficiency is maintained.

Many Nurses trained in this school are taking an active part in caring for the sick and wounded in the various war zones.

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NURSING ECHOES.

Please do not omit to read the Petition to the Prime Minister on the inside cover on page ii of this issue, and having done so, to sign it if approved, and return to the address indicated.

We want thousands of Nurses who believe in State Registration to sign this Petition, so that they may help to make the Rules and Regulations to which they will have to conform when a Nurses' Registration Act is in force.

Free copies of the Petition can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, Nurses' Petition, 431, Oxford Street, London, W. 1.

Members of the Matrons' Council will be interested to know that one of their number, Miss E. Purvis, Lady Superintendent of the Nurses' Home, Middlesborough, has been sworn in as a special constable. She writes :— "We have gone beyond the Women Patrols, and are under the jurisdiction of the Chief Constable of Middlesborough."

The National League of Nursing Education (formerly the American Society of Superintendents of Training Schools for Nurses) has, conjointly with the American Nurses' Association, held its Twenty-third Annual Convention at Philadelphia, when a most instructive and interesting programme was discussed by both societies. A cablegram was sent off to Mrs. Bedford Fenwick informing her that she had been elected an Honorary Member of the National League—an honour deeply appreciated by her, especially at this time, when American and British nurses are working side by side in Europe in closest harmony in aid of the sick and wounded. Now that Miss Nightingale and Miss Isla Stewart have passed away, Mrs. Fenwick is the only British Hon. Member of the American Nurses' Association, with whose high ethical standards and deep sense of professional responsibility she is so warmly in sympathy, and to the Annual Conventions of which she always receives a cordial invitation.

The Educational Work of the American Red Cross is of a very practical nature. Miss Delano, Chairman of the National Committee, and Miss Noyes, Director of the Bureau of Nursing Service, are now established in their large and airy offices in the magnificent new Red Cross Building at Washington, erected "In Memory of the Heroic Women of the Civil War." White marble floors and wainscot and soft-coloured wall colours predominate. It takes four rooms for the work of the clerical staff, to say nothing of files and records.

Under the direction of the Bureau of Nursing Service three courses of instruction are being given : elementary hygiene and home care of the sick; home dietetics; and preparation of surgical dressings. The book on *Home Dietetics*, prepared by Ada L. Fish, has finally been received, and classes have been started in many places. The enrolled Red Cross Dietetian Service is attracting large numbers of able women; it is believed that such a service will ultimately prove a valuable asset to the country.

A sum of £262 13s. 2d. has been raised in Ireland as the Irish Memorial to Edith Cavell, the heroic nurse who gave her life for her country, and the committee have handed over the amount to the Royal City of Dublin Hospital for the endowment of a bed in her memory. It was hoped that the £500 necessary to endow a bed in perpetuity might have been obtained, and the committee greatly regret that they were unable, in consequence of the innumerable calls for war charities, to raise so large a sum.

We are glad to learn that the authorities of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester, have rearranged the salaries of the probationer nurses. Formerly candidates provided their own uniform for the trial period, and received £8, £12, and £16 salary for the first, second and third years. They now receive £10, £14, and £18 respectively, and the cost of approved uniform is refunded to them when they are accepted after the trial period. Under the existing regulations a certain number of nurses who consent to remain for a fourth year receive six months' training in massage at a special hospital. A course of sick room cookery is also given by the Kent Education Committee.

METROPOLITAN ASYLUMS BOARD.

We have received the list of successful candidates at the April Examination of Nurses held under the auspices of the Metropolitan Asylums Board. 109 candidates entered, of whom 76 passed. Of these 3 were staff nurses, all of whom passed, 51 probationers, 39 of whom passed, 2 assistant nurses (class 1), 1 of whom passed, 53 assistant nurses (class 2), 33 of whom passed.

In the examination of probationers the maximum number of marks obtainable was 600. The gold medal was won by Miss M. Page, South Western Hospital, Stockwell, who obtained 96.5 per cent. of full marks, the silver medal by Miss F. M. Tufnail, South Western Hospital, 93.5 per cent. and the bronze medal Miss E. Laidlaw, Western Hospital, Fulham, S.W., 93.2 per cent. These figures surpass all previous records.

PRESENTATION TO THE REV. E. F. RUSSELL.

CHAPLAIN-GENERAL OF THE GUILD OF ST. BARNABAS FOR NURSES.

To come out of the heavy, oppressive atmosphere of a extremely awful war for a time, with its concomitants of horror and hate, into the clear, pure atmosphere of its antitheses—peace and love—is a soul tonic of a most alleviative nature. The key-note of the great gathering at Holborn Hall on Thursday, May 3rd was emblazoned on a scroll framed in flowers, over the platform, and was the inspiration of the hour :—"*Love is the sole interpreter of every lovely thing. This is the burden of his song, well may the poet sing.*" Father Russell—to use his familiar title—has ministered in the parish and church of St. Alban's, Holborn, for 50 consecutive years. It was to celebrate this rather remarkable occasion and to seal that period of time (as he has now officially resigned) that the presentation was made in the presence of a large number of his many friends. The platform was embowered in flowers, and as a beautiful little red "rambler" was conspicuously abundant, we may suppose it was his favourite flower. Besides Lord Halifax, who presided, those present on the platform were :—The Bishop of London, the Bishop of Stepney, the Archdeacon of London, the Rev. Fr. Hogg, whose services at St. Alban's have been but seven years less, and to whom Father Russell referred as his "dear friend and colleague," Canon Newbolt, and others. Not least (in number) evidently, among those who had assembled to do him honour, were the nurses of the Guild of St. Barnabas, of whom there are over 5,000. For as many years as the Guild has existed, namely, 40, he has been their Chaplain-General. No doubt, of the nurses—in their various uniforms—and those in mufti, who were dotted about the hall—some had come from a distance, for by none is Father Russell more honoured probably than by the members of the Guild.

The tone and spirit of the speeches of all those who had come to give honour to whom honour was due, were embodied in the address, which was formally read, and then presented to him in a beautiful illuminated form by the Bishop of London, from which we quote the following words : "It is just when we want them that words fail us, and they could not betray us more signally than when we try to say what you have meant to us during the fifty years of your service at St. Alban's. How can any words of ours tell what it has been to feel, amid the turmoil of a roaring city, or the stress and storm of ecclesiastic strife, the abiding influence in our midst of a presence so generous and tender, so firm and reassuring, unbroken in its loyalty to the sacramental life, undisturbed in its beauty, unruffled in its holiness, constant in its delicate ministry of grace, unfailing in its store of help, unwavering in the devotion and affection with which it spent itself in the service of others."

A purse of money was also presented.

Probably the most difficult thing that Father Russell has ever done was to reply in a "summing up" speech, to those addressed to him in all sincerity.

It was most fitting, and we were glad to see the "Guild Mother" present, as we like to call her, following again our American cousins and fellow nurses, who thus suitably name the Superior of *their* Guild of St. Barnabas. There would have been something wrong with the meeting if Mrs. Gardner had *not* been there! It was at once a pleasure and a privilege to have attended so inspiring a meeting. B. K.

BOOK OF THE WEEK.

SONIA.*

BETWEEN TWO WORLDS.

This remarkable book stands pre-eminent in the fiction of to-day, and we envy those readers for whom yet it is a treat in store. We prophesy that they will not be content till they have turned its pages a second and even a third time. There is so much that is remarkable, so many attractive persons, so many and varied aspects of life, that it is extremely difficult in a short notice to select any passages that will convey anything like an adequate conception of the book as a whole.

Mr. McKenna possesses a rare skill in character portrayal, and each is instinctive with conviction. while anything like exaggeration or burlesque is absent.

It is written in the first person, one George Oakleigh, and he himself stands out as a very desirable person, though the ego is very skilfully kept in subjection. He says :—

"For thirty years I have lived among what the world has loosely agreed to call the 'Governing Classes.' This book may have something of historical value in portraying a group of men and women who were at the same time personal friends, and representative of those Governing Classes in politics, journalism, commerce and society."

The story goes some way back to emphasise the gradual development of various lives illustrating these various different sections of society, to the time when George Oakleigh, the writer, was a monitor in a public school which passes under the name of Melton.

Perhaps this is the most attractive period in the story, though we are by no means sure on this point.

Sonia is the sister of one of the Meltonian elect, and her father is a wealthy middle class man who made his fortune in the brewery business. Lady Dainton represents the society "Climber."

In the opening chapters Sonia is presented as a charming, spoilt and only daughter of eleven, "with velvety brown eyes, white skin, and dark

* By Stephen McKenna. London : Methuen & Co. 6s. net.

hair." As the title of the book suggests, she plays a leading part. The "Head" of Melton is an inimitable character; it goes without saying that he was a scholar of repute, with gentle, sing-song voice, who habitually addressed his pupils in either classical or biblical language.

O'Rane, the fiery illegitimate and orphan son of Lord O'Rane, stands out remarkable among many remarkable people.

At the age of fifteen he appeared from nowhere and demanded admission to the charmed circle of Melton.

Mr. Burgess, the "Head," thus described the interview:—

"There came to me a laddie no bigger than a man's hand. 'Thy name and thy business, laddie?' He told me he was known to men as David O'Rane. His speech was as the speech of men in far places. Shortly he bade me 'See here,' and stated that he proposed to come to my old school anyway, and that was the way he regarded the proposition." All through his life that which David proposed to do he did. For instance, he did not propose to play football, and was caned by the monitors every ten days in consequence, and this was repeated every ten days till he passed into the Sixth, where football was not compulsory.

Gradually his dominant personality brought the school to his feet, and Lord Loring, the captain of his house, though he administered chastisement, passed from pitying him as a "lonely little devil," to admitting him to the charmed circle of himself and other kindred spirits. "You're not a bad fag, young man; I'm quite sorry you've passed into the Sixth."

"No more of our ten-day meetings," said O'Rane.

Loring half closed his eyes.

"Believe me or not," he said. "I have always regarded those meetings as blots on our delectable friendship. Are you going home for the holidays, Spitfire?"

"I haven't got a home," said O'Rane, with something of a return to his old sullenness.

How charming is the picture of the last days in the old school.

"My last chapel was Loring's first. Catholic or not, he felt the service was not to be missed. We sat side by side and determined there should be none of the foolish weakness exhibited by other generations of leaving monitors. Yet, as the organ began to play the last hymn, he failed to rise, and as voices all around me began to sing 'Lead, Kindly Light,' I found I could not join in."

Life at Oxford is as convincingly depicted. It was during that period that O'Rane made up his mind that he would marry Sonia, then a child of sixteen—but Lady Dainton thought otherwise.

David had, however, made up his mind and bided his time.

Sonia, in the meantime, goes through the various phases of a debutante in a certain set of smart society, prior to the war. Very loud, rather *risquée*, beautiful, attractive, striving with her pushing mother after an unenviable notoriety. She engaged herself to Lord Loring, jilted him, and made herself notorious with men of shady reputation.

The political situation is discussed and criticised from all standpoints; the German influence in society and commerce is brought into prominence.

And in the midst of all this feverish atmosphere and unrest, comes the declaration of war.

Loring, the *dilettante* nobleman, Tom Dainton, and others of the old Meltonian circle, offer the supreme sacrifice, and fiery, brilliant O'Rane becomes totally blind.

But he said he would marry Sonia and he kept his word. In the awful tragedy of the war she found herself, and his helplessness conquered her where his dominance had failed.

O'Rane says: "I can still see visions, thank God."

We say, without fear of contradiction, that this work is a masterpiece. No one should allow it to be laid to their charge that they have failed, through any fault of their own, to read it.

H. H.

"WHEN WILL THE WAR BE BY?"

"This year, neist year, sometime, never,"
A lanely lass, bringing hame the kye.
Pu's at a floo'er wi' a weary sigh,
An' laich, laich, she is coontin' ever
"This year, neist year, sometime, never,
When will the war be by?"

"Weel, wounded, missin', deid,"
Is there nae news o' oor lads ava?
Are they hale an' fere that are hine awa'?
A lass raxed oot for the list, to read—
"Weel, wounded, missin', *deid*";
An' the war was by for twa.

From A Sough o' War. By Charles Murray.

WORD FOR THE WEEK.

Like the star
That shines afar,
Without haste
And without rest,
Let each man wheel with steady sway
Round the task that rules the day,
And do his best.

COMING EVENTS.

May 14th.—Asylum Workers' Association, Annual General Meeting. The Mansion House, E.C. Chair, the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor. 5 p.m.

May 21st–25th.—Post Graduate Week for Midwives, General Lying-in Hospital, York Rd., Lambeth, S.E.

May 23rd.—Trained Women Nurses' Friendly Society. Annual Meeting. 431, Oxford Street, London, W., 4.30 p.m.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Whilst cordially inviting communications upon all subjects for these columns, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not IN ANY WAY *hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.*

NATIONAL UNION OF TRAINED NURSES.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I find there is a misunderstanding about the paragraph referring to Miss Sparshott which appeared in your issue of April 14th.

I shall be obliged if you will kindly publish this letter, in order that it may be clearly understood that the paragraph was an editorial comment and not one sent in by the office of the N.U.T.N.

I am, yours faithfully,
E. L. C. EDEN, *Hon. Secretary.*

46, Marsham Street,
Westminster, S.W. 1.

[The paragraph in question is written throughout with the editorial "we," so that there should be no misunderstanding as to its being editorial comment.—ED.]

THE NEED FOR NURSE DIETITIANS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I am afraid the experience of "M. H.," writer of an article on the Need for Nurse Dietitians, in last week's number of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING, has been anything but happy. For the last fourteen years I have been actively connected with hospitals—four—including my training school which was a large London hospital, where the kitchens at that time, were in charge of an excellent steward. Of the other three one was a children's hospital—another a special London hospital, and the fourth a busy provincial hospital mainly for surgical cases.

In none of these have I ever come across the thick bread and butter (stale), the watery cabbage, &c., of which your contributor speaks.

Early in my training the Ward Sister under whom I had the good fortune to work initiated me into the change of diet which with very little teaching could be easily learned and practised in a medical ward.

Milk was given as milk jelly, junket, sherry whey, milk tea; also, in the case of typhoid fever cases, we were shown how to flavour it with cocoa, coffee and vanilla. Certainly, the cases on "milk only" were not given milk (hot or cold) two hourly without some effort being made to vary the diet. As for the dinners they were sent up beautifully hot to the wards, there was always a variety of diet—chops, chicken, fried fish, mince, roast joints and Irish stew or haricot, and the greens were well cooked. The serving of the dinners was in the hands of the Ward Sister and they reached the patient in a most palatable condition.

A certain amount of dripping has always been sent up to the wards in the four hospitals of which I can speak personally

At the children's hospital where the housekeeping was under the direction of the Matron the children's food was most excellent. Chicken broth was made from the necks and legs of pullets, and very good it was.

I imagine there are very few hospitals where the housekeeping is not under the supervision of a trained nurse, but each hospital has its own fixed diet scale and a nurse does not as a rule go through a long and arduous training to become a cook at the end of it.

As for fruit, probably "M. H." has no practical knowledge of the price per lb. of fruit and what an enormous outlay that item of diet alone would mount up to per week say in a hospital of 200 to 300 beds.

When rhubarb is plentiful it is largely used in hospitals, but even the sugar required for its preparation is not a small quantity.

Is it fair to quote cases like the unfortunate man who was fed on one meal a day and stale bread, and then sent to a one-roomed home to feed up? I am afraid it is difficult to believe this in these days when hospitals are so alive to the benefit of convalescent homes, and where the Insurance Act relieves so greatly those who are by illness unable to follow their work. Certainly the diet of hospital is plain, but as a general rule the patients' food is well cooked and of an excellent quality. The meals are varied as much as is possible, and the nursing staff assist in every way to make the meals as palatable as possible.

With the present dearth of potatoes, hospital patients generally are having a diet of substitutes, and only those who are directly connected with the kitchen department can fully realize the extra work they entail.

I hope you will forgive this somewhat wordy vindication of hospital diets, but I feel "M. H.'s" experiences are the exception and not the rule.

Yours faithfully,
M. R. S.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

QUESTIONS.

May 19th.—Give a short description of the following diseases, and give details of general nursing and management: (*a*) chorea; and (*b*) delirium tremens.

May 26th.—Describe the abdominal complications of enteric fever, and give an account of the methods of nursing employed in these.

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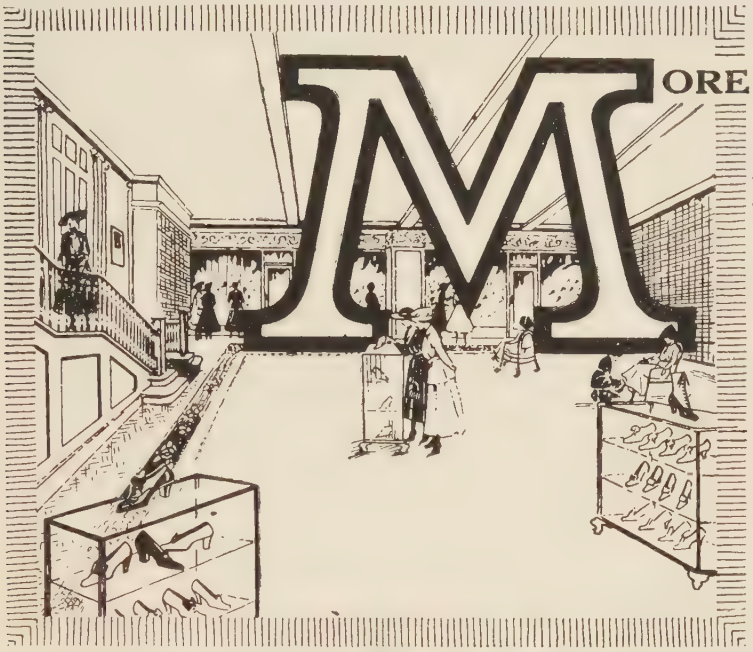

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Prize Competition.

Prize Competition Coupon

May 12th, 1917

Name of Competitor .....

Address .....

RULES FOR COMPETITION.

1. Any reader of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING may compete for the prize of **FIVE SHILLINGS** which will be paid to the **writer of the best article of from 300 to 750 words on the following subject—"Give a short description of the following diseases and give details of general nursing and management:—(a) chorea; (b) delirium tremens."**

The dated Coupon for May 12th, published on this page, must be cut out by the Competitor, and enclosed with the article she sends, with her full name and address inserted. The number of words of article to be written on left hand top corner of first page. This answer should be posted not later than **May 12th,** to the Editor, 20, Upper Wimpole St., London, W., marked on the envelope "Prize Competition." **The Name of the Winner of the Prize and the Prize Article will appear on May 19th, 1917.**

2. The Editor's decision must be accepted by each Competitor as final and unquestionable.

The Midwife.

A BEAUTIFUL OASIS IN EAST LONDON.

AN APPEAL FOR THE EAST END MOTHERS' HOME.*

By Mrs. H. B. Irving.

Everybody who has had anything to do with this beautiful oasis in East London knows perfectly well that there is only one person who should be speaking to you this afternoon, and that is Miss Anderson. No one else could really tell you about all the work of the year that would go straight to the heart of everyone present.

Indeed, I think she is a sort of fairy godmother, like Cinderella's of old, who made carriages out of pumpkins, and shining garments out of rags, and in between your Committee days I believe she waves her wand, and in a moment things get pulled down and built up, renewed, enlarged, adapted and beautified until everyone rubs their eyes and cries out that the days of miracles are not yet past.

But I am sorry to say Miss Anderson insists that she will only be a silent Fairy Godmother at the Annual Meeting, so the only thing to do is just to try to tell you of everything here that lies nearest her heart, if I can only manage to find it all out.

And firstly, I have to appeal for money, because without it this Home cannot be carried on. You all know the splendid work that is being done here for the great cause of motherhood, and you realise fully that whatever happens it must go on and increase. But as a voluntary worker myself, I cannot help knowing that there is nothing so disheartening as striving perpetually to do the work and collect the money for the work at one and the same time. It does cheer the workers up so tremendously if they are helped by those who perhaps have money if not time at their disposal; they get depressed, because they begin to feel that people don't care, and I'm afraid very often it's true.

Yet surely we have begun to care a little! Never before have we heard so much as we are hearing to-day about Infant Welfare and Maternity. Public opinion seems thoroughly aroused. Now, why is it that we are thinking so much about Mothers and Babies to-day? It isn't really because the National danger of a declining birth-rate and a large Infant Death Rate comes home very much to the imagination of ordinary people. It is because we are not the same, any of us, as we were three years ago. We have learnt something, We have wakened up to find ourselves all brothers and sisters of one great family. How do we go on living to-day? Because we know our anxiety is every one's anxiety. How do we keep up our courage? Because we dare not fall below the standard we see all around us. We are made to think of each other by a common sorrow, and a common anxiety, and this sympathy and understanding is breaking down the old barriers as nothing else could have done.

It is just this element in our midst that is causing such human interest about maternity. It hurts a woman living to-day who has borne children in comfort, and been able to give them every chance, to know that there are other mothers and babies to whom the conditions of wholesome life are denied. They have begun to care, and it is only by caring tremendously that the wheels of that great machine called Public Opinion can be set going.

Next let us consider the need for such a place in this neighbourhood. Curative treatment is more or less obtainable even for the poor in present day London, but preventive treatment is not, and it is just because your Home combines the two in the best possible way that its benefit is beyond price to the women who seek its aid. The antenatal work of the Home alone is worth the total expenditure, because it prevents and detects early disease and suffering, and ensures a healthy maternity and an educated mother.

Left to herself the working class mother will accept the ill health of pregnancy as a matter of course just as she *used* to be satisfied (before Public Opinion on the subject was aroused) if her baby, ailing as it was, seemed no worse than the average baby in her particular street. And then, again, think of the post natal work—no one can urge too much the necessity of visiting and after care when a mother leaves the Home, or gets about again in her own house. It was owing to this great need that one of the earliest Schools for Mothers was started in the Home itself ten years ago, which eventually outgrew its surroundings and became the Stepney School for Mothers, which now works in close touch with the Home. It is wonderful indeed to think of the educative and preventive work done in the 23,587 visits made by the nurses to patients in their own houses.

One of the very grisliest bogies Infant Welfare Workers are fighting at the present moment is the untrained woman with a little knowledge who is installed as mistress of the ceremonies in far too numerous a proportion of lying-in cases. It may be the "Grannie" or the "Auntie" or mother-in-law, who would be mortally offended if not called in to the young mother, and who is the greatest enemy of progress, and one of the chief causes of early Infantile Mortality.

I was called in by our Parish Doctor the other day to see if anything could be done for a blind woman with a week-old baby, who was being looked after by an old Grannie of 80—among other evils it had developed a very bad attack of thrush.

* An Address (abridged) given at the Annual Meeting, 396, Commercial Road, E.

She saw me looking at it and forestalled anything I might have said. "I *am* so thankful its got the thrush so lovely. What *I* say is if you don't 'ave thrush when yo i're born you 'ave to 'ave it when you die, and that do seem so hard, so I allus likes *my* babies to get it young."

There are all sorts of other dangeis threatening young babies left entirely to ignorant and untrained women. Wherever the trained midwife and nurse goes she carries with her, like the lamp of Florence Nightingale, a message that shines into every home, and chases away the darkness of ignorance, uncleanness, and stupidity.

It is not necessary to say very much about the Maternity Home itself. No words of mine could appeal to you as much as the sight of the tired but smiling mothers lying there enjoying the only holiday that many of them can ever know, with the babies snuggling under their pink and blue woollies. How they must love to be here. An East End mother usually lives in the most depressing and ugly surroundings. The stir and roar of the city is in her ears. She sees nothing of the sky or fields or recurring seasons to make her remember there is such a thing as beauty.

And there is something else—*Never*, morning, evening, noon or night can she get away from the children; cleaning, mending and making for a family of any number goes on all day.

(*To be concluded.*)

A MINISTRY OF HEALTH.

Lord Rhondda, on Monday last, received an influential deputation, which urged upon him the early establishment of a Ministry of Public Health, at the Local Government Board Office. Lord Rhondda in reply said that the subject was being very seriously considered by the Government. If such a Ministry were not established, as he hoped it might be in the near future, his department would introduce a Bill to provide for the feeding of expectant and nursing mothers, and to provide pure milk for children.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD FOR SCOTLAND.

The Examination of the Board beginning on April 30th last held simultaneously in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dundee, and Aberdeen, has just concluded.

117 candidates entered for the examination, of whom the following 101 were successful:—

Edinburgh.—Misses Annie D. Dunlop, Mary E. A. Steven, Margaret F. Chalmers, Jemima Harkins, Jane Macleod, Isabella Ross, Jessie Gauld, Jane A. Laing, Mary McLean Smith, Mrs. Helen Smith, Miss Mary E. Butler, and Mrs. Elizabeth S. Blair.

Glasgow.—Mrs. Christina F. Aitken, Mrs. Mary Ferguson, Misses Annie M. Munro, Marion Macdonald, Mary E. J. Henderson, Martha Sutherland, Jeanie McKechnie, Christina Maclean, Mrs. Agnes Brand, Misses Ada M. Gordon, Mary A. Murray, Christina A. MacIvor, Annie S. Mills, Jessie L. McKinnon, Agnes W. Graham, Mrs. Jane S. Taylor, Mrs. Elspeth M Ferguson, Miss Janet B. Crawford, Mrs. Jeanie Smith, Mrs. Annie Baxter, Mrs. Catherine Richards, Misses Catherine McD. Robertson, Mrs. Catherine Tennant, Miss Agnes W. Cochran, Mrs. Jessie Smith, Mrs. Jean Anderson, Mrs. Mary B. Brown, Misses Amelia Hunter, Catherine Whyte, Mrs. Jane B. Brown, Mrs. Elizabeth Ewing, Miss Jeanie S. Denholm, Mrs. Catherine Williamson, Mrs. M. Dickson, Mrs. Mary Todd, Mrs. Mary Smith, Miss Catherine B. Stewart, Mrs. Caroline Barr, Miss Janet B. Hogg, Mrs. Janet C. Smith, Misses Flora McArthur, Mary J. MacGregor, Mary Watson, Sarah J. Wilson, Mary W. Martin, Mrs. Annie Coyle, Miss Elizabeth P. McC. Paterson, Mrs. Margaret Wilson, Misses Janie Sutherland, Helen W. Ferguson, Mrs. Bridget Ward, Misses Isabella McPherson, Elizabeth Couser, Christina Couser, Mrs. Isabella J. Orr, Mrs. Annie Reid, Miss Catherine Lynch, Mrs. Marjory Buchanan, Mrs. Sarah Harvey, Miss Janet M. Jolly, Mrs. Elizabeth S. Jamieson, Mrs. Elizabeth H. H. Dick, Misses Penelope MacMillan, Jane Morrison, Mrs. Jean N. Gray, Misses Margaret K. Boyd, Marion C. Stevenson, Mrs. Annie J. Saunders, Mrs. Agnes S. Strelley, Mrs. Margaret McCahill, Mrs. Janet O. McM. Mann, Mrs. Sarah Connell, Mrs. Mary Curran, Mrs. Mary Winning, Mrs. Margaret H. Moore, Mrs. Margaret Campbell, and Mrs. Charlotte Tannahill.

Dundee.—Misses Margaret D. Whyte, Mary J. Duff, Jessie V. Allison, Catherine P. A. L. R. Stewart, Betsy S. Gibb, Catherine McCalman, and Christina Grigor.

Aberdeen.—Misses Janet Brodie, Jessie L. McKay, Miss Annie Flett, Miss Marguerite B. G. Cheyne, and Mrs. Mary Stobie.

EXAMINATION PAPER.

The following are the questions set in the examination held by the Central Midwives Board for Scotland on April 30th:—

1. What is the most common Presentation, and how would you diagnose it?

2. Define the First Stage of Labour, and name four of the causes of delay in this stage.

3. Describe the management of an infant prematurely born.

4. How would you treat the cord after delivery of the child, and when does it usually separate?

5. What are the signs and symptoms that would lead you to diagnose Albuminuria in pregnancy, and what are the risks following from its presence?

6. In what conditions may a catheter be required during pregnancy, labour, or the puerperium? State in detail how you would prepare and use the instrument.

EXTENSION OF TIME LIMIT FOR CANDIDATES FOR EXAMINATION.

At a recent meeting of the Board it was resolved that an extension of time to October 29th, 1917, for admission to examination, should be granted to candidates having a minimum of three months' training of a type approved by the Board and duly signed up for the required 20 cases.

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